

Base Briefs

AWARDS BANQUET HELD THURSDAY

Team Vandenberg's Fourth Quarter Awards Luncheon is Thursday at 11:15 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Tickets are \$9 for club members and \$11 for non-members and can be purchased from first sergeants by close of business today. For more information, call Master Sgt. Stephen Hopkins at 606-3230.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE NOT AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY

There is no legal assistance available Wednesday afternoon. Legal assistance will resume Jan. 23.

COMMISSARY CLOSING JAN. 21, 22

The commissary and mini commissary are closed Martin Luther King Day. The commissary is also closed Jan. 22. The mini commissary is open Jan. 22 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

SCHOOLS CLOSE FOR HOLIDAY

Lompoc Unified School District schools and offices are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Classes will resume Jan. 22.

MLK LUNCHEON TUESDAY AT PCC

The 2002 Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon is held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Tickets cost \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members. Also, a commemorative ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday in Chapel 1 at 11 a.m. For information, call 606-0370.

30TH MEDICAL GROUP UNDER RENOVATION

The 30th Medical Group renovation of its family practice and internal medicine clinics will continue until June 1, 2003. The family practice clinic has been relocated to the fourth floor and the internal medicine and gyn clinic to the third floor.

BREAKERS CONTINUES FAMILY NIGHT

The 30th Services Squadron staff offers a weekly dinner Thursday at the Breakers Dining Facility from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner is open to all family members of people deployed in support of an overseas operation. For more information, call 606-5031.

DEADLINE NEARS FOR COMMISSARY SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the second annual Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Program is Feb. 5. Qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders, to include active duty, retirees, and Guard/ reserves, may apply for the \$1,500 scholarships. For more information go to web site www.commissaries.com.

BASE TAX OFFICE OPENS JAN. 22

The base tax office opens Jan. 22. The tax office staff completes federal and state tax returns free of charge for all active duty, retired military, and dependents. Call the tax office 605-3668 for an appointment.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Two-year-old Erin Bradley talks with a TV cameraman during a recent taping of her singing of "God Bless America" for a news broadcast.

Team Vandenberg tot's voice blesses America

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Over the last few months, Americans have shown their patriotism proudly. They honor Old Glory everywhere — on cars, in homes and on lapel pins. Patriotic hymns stir their hearts and bring tears to their eyes.

Two-year-old Erin Bradley is no exception. Barely speaking at the time of the Sept. 11

attacks, she began singing "God Bless America" after hearing it on TV.

"We just started singing it with her and she caught on," said Erin's father, Staff Sgt. Chris Bradley of the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Erin sang the patriotic tune everywhere, he said. One day while Chris and his wife Dara were in a local shopping mall, crowds of people

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AFSPC division chief clarifies AEF concept

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Space Command officials stopped here to bring Team V up to speed on the status of the aerospace expeditionary force concept.

Col. Al Dremstedt, AFSPC Forces Division chief, spoke to more than 500 people during the AEF briefings he conducted in the base theater Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dremstedt's briefing summarized AFSPC's methodology to optimize wing "team contribution" while maintaining an acceptable balance of home station operations when a wing or installation is in its two AEF rotation periods.

"Team contribution and home station impact are two sides of the same coin," Dremstedt said. "Each affects the other. As team contribution is increased or decreased home station operations are effected."

The objective is to determine the maximum team contribution and to understand and mitigate the resultant impact on home station, he said.

Over the last couple of years, senior Air

See AEF Page 3



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN POMEROY

Tech. Sgt. Frank Rapp, 30th Medical Group, gets a final hug from his daughter Kristyn, 10, Sept. 26 before Rapp deploys to Southwest Asia.

Dental, medical corps officers promoted

This year's OIA colonel, lieutenant colonel and major central selection board for medical and dental selected 53 lieutenant colonels to the rank of colonel. They selected 211 majors to the rank of lieutenant colonel and 343 captains to the rank of major.

Team Vandenberg had three

captains selected to major and one major selected to lieutenant colonel.

To lieutenant colonel:

Markham Brown

To major:

Thomas Cantilina

Patrick Shea

Claire Shervanick



Base receiving new 'smart' ID cards

More than 15k here to receive new access card

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Team Vandenberg will begin receiving the new and "smart" official Department of Defense identification cards in May.

The common access cards, based on smart-card technology, replace the standard identification cards and will be issued to more than 10,000 Vandenberg active-duty people, DOD employees and selected reservist, said Master Sgt. Sheila Kaplan, 30th Mission Support Squadron superintendent of customer service.

The Air Force's target is to issue more than 4 million cards to all DOD employees by Sept. 30.

The 30th MSS military personnel flight is scheduled to receive the new system in April with the first cards being issued a few weeks later. Each card takes approximately 22 minutes to produce and cost about \$8, said Kaplan. Costs are expected to decrease as larger quantities are purchased and technology improves through competition.

The new smart card, about the size of a credit card, contains an integrated circuit chip, linear bar code, two-dimensional bar code, magnetic stripe, color digital photograph and printed information. The cards are capable of storing

32K bytes of information.

"The common access card will be the principal access card used to enter buildings and controlled spaces," said Kaplan.

According to the Access Card Office web site, the card is more than just an identification card, it will eventually allow physical access to secure areas, permit entry into computer networks and serve as the authentication token for the new services that are being put in place within the DOD to ensure information systems security.

Kaplan explained that the card, while it does not include a personal handwritten signature, will store certificates to enable cardholders to digitally sign documents such as e-mail.

Among other possible activities being considered on a department-wide basis are processing food services charges in military mess halls and updating manifest and deployment data. Placing individual medical and dental information on the card, as well as student status, armory and property accountability, training and rifle range performance are also being evaluated.

The initial issuing phase of the cards started October 2000 at Langley AFB, Va.; Osan AB, Korea, Ramstein AB, Germany, and the 203rd Red Horse Unit in Virginia Beach, Va.

Development of the common access card culminates almost a decade of DOD interest in smart card applications.

Commanders approve 82 percent of Stop-Loss waivers

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — More than 80 percent of Stop-Loss waiver requests have been approved by major command commanders who have reviewed about 900 requests from airmen currently affected by the program.

An approved waiver allows an airman to leave the Air Force despite the Stop-Loss order which began Oct. 2.

Stop-Loss action keeps people from retiring or separating from the service during national emergencies.

The current Stop-Loss action specifically cites operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and any associated operations.

The waiver process was included in the original program guidance that set the rules for temporary Stop-Loss implementation.

"[Waivers] allow for MAJCOM commanders to judge, on a case-by-case basis, whether someone has compelling enough personal reasons to leave the service that outweigh the Air Force's need for

[that airman] to stay," said Lt. Col. Richard Binger, chief of retirements here at the Air Force Personnel Center.

As of Jan. 3, MAJCOM commanders approved waivers for 82 percent of enlisted people and 81 percent of officers requesting them. About 11,500 people with original retirement or separation dates of Oct. 2 to April 30 are affected by Stop-Loss — 2,182 officers and 9,334 enlisted.

"What's interesting is that less than a thousand of those affected have asked for waivers," Binger said. "It seems that people are accepting that their country needs them right now."

"We're happy that the waiver authority exists for those people who face things in their personal lives that really make it hard for them to stay," Binger said.

The Air Force expects a review of Stop-Loss will be completed and announced by the end of January. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

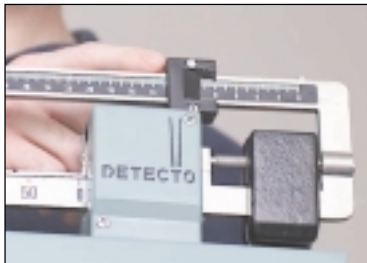
This issue of the



Also view The Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.html



New Year Baby. Faith Ashlee Zavala joined the Team Vandenberg family Jan. 2 at 10:52 p.m. See Page 3.



Americans are tipping the scale. HAWC weighs in with advice and tips for Team Vandenberg. See Page 4.

Weekend forecast Sunny.



Low/High 41/72

For a full VAFB weather report visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather/index.html

STEPpin’ up



Col. Robert M. Worley, 30th Space Wing commander and Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey, tack new master sergeant stripes on Amber Boerner of the 30th Mission Support Squadron. Boerner received her new stripes Jan 2.

Teamwork, sacrifice bring Team V earned recognition

By MAJ. LEE SHICK
30th Mission Support Squadron commander

2001 – what a banner year for the 30th Space Wing!
We won the Schriever Trophy during Guardian Challenge and then took home the Moorman Trophy a couple of weeks later.
We were Air Force Space Command’s nomination for the Verne Orr Award and the Installation Excellence Award. Then there were all the unit and individual awards won by Team Vandenberg members last year.
While most of us associate recognition with awards, recognition comes in many forms. It can be delivered with a pat on the back for a job well done or taking time to say, “Thanks” at the end of an e-mail.
In fact, I had a supervisor at one time who said “Thank You” should be the fourth Core Value – it’s that important.
Recognition is a cornerstone of our great Air Force – not just because it validates the excellence of our service and the superb performance of its members, but because it can also fuel friendly competition.
This competition spurs individuals and units to high-octane performance – I’ve seen it!
Last year, a challenge was issued to the 30th Mission Support Squadron and they responded, winning eight wing-level awards – our first since 1997 – and we’re not done yet! Yes, that was a challenge to the other units on base – competition is fun and healthy, so bring it on!

Recognition can also be a powerful source of pride and motivation. Take our recent Operational Readiness Inspection for example.
What a great sight and feeling it was to witness and be part of the ORI out-brief in November. To watch all the outstanding members of the 30th Space Wing be recognized for their hard work and dedication – I’ll bet I’m not the only one who had chills. And to watch the squadrons react to their ratings – “Got Comm?” or how about, “CE, when you mess with the bull, you get the horns!”
You could feel the pride permeate throughout the theater and later during the ceremony at the Pacific Coast Club – that same pride you feel when you hear Lee Greenwood’s song “Proud to be an American.” That was a great event and well deserved recognition for the Wing.
But like putting away dessert after a hearty Thanksgiving meal, there is always room for more.
2002 is now upon us, and once again Team Vandenberg is poised for another great year of recognition and success.
It won’t come without sacrifice. Writing award-winning packages is a time-consuming effort.
That effort is required from all levels: individuals working hard to earn the recognition, supervisors and units taking the time to draft the award packages, and leadership spending hours making them glow.
So sharpen your pencils, start writing and watch for those key award suspenses.
Yes, there will be writer’s cramp, but I have little doubt that when the pencils are put down and results tallied, this award-winning wing and its squadrons will once again bring home the gold!

This month in Air Force History

- ♦ **Jan. 1, 1988.** Strategic Air Command changes missile crew assignment policy to permit mixed male/female crews in Minuteman and Peacekeeper launch facilities.
- ♦ **Jan. 23, 1950.** The U.S. Air Force establishes Air Research and Development Command, which in 1961 was redesignated Air Force Systems Command.
- ♦ **Jan. 27, 1967.** Astronauts USAF

Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee and Edward H. White are killed in a flash fire aboard their Apollo 1 command module during a ground test. The disaster sets the moon-landing effort back two years.

- ♦ **Jan. 28, 1986.** The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts, including schoolteacher Christa

McAuliffe and Air Force Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka.

- ♦ **Jan. 31, 1950.** President Harry S. Truman announces that he has directed the Atomic Energy Commission “to continue its work on all forms of atomic energy weapons, including the so-called hydrogen or super bomb.” This is the first confirmation of U.S. H-bomb work.

Commander’s Action line



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence. Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander’s Action Line is your direct communication link to me.
It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back. I appreciate your

input, and I am personally involved in every response.
While the Commander’s Action Line is a great way to communicate, don’t forget there are many other avenues to get answers to your questions including your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials, and many other base professionals.
Thanks for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number.

EMERGENCY.....	911
Poison control.....	800-876-4766
Clinic appointments.....	606-2273
Information.....	411
After-hours urgent care.....	888-252-3299
TRICARE services.....	800-242-6788
Health Care Information Line.....	800-611-2883
Law enforcement.....	606-3911
Housing maintenance.....	734-5586
Child Development Center.....	606-1555
Youth Center	606-2152
MPF customer service.....	606-7756
Visitor control center.....	606-7662
Chapel Office.....	606-5573
Chaplain (after hours).....	606-9961
Red Cross (duty hours)	606-1855
Red Cross (after hours).....	800-660-4272
EOD (duty hours).....	605-1375
Military Pay.....	606-4606

Action line 606-7850 or e-mail your message to actionline@vandenberg.af.mil

Q My question concerns driving habits of individuals on and going to South Base. Every morning on the way to work, with my cruise control set at 50 mph on 13th Street, I am consistently either passed or closely tailgated (occasionally accompanied with rude looks or gestures) by individuals who obviously should have left for work ten minutes earlier. People seem to become especially irate as I slow down to the posted 25 mph as I near the Solvang gate, and before the current barricades were in place, would pass on the right and blow through the gate at a very high speed. Similarly on South Base, while the broken yellow line does allow for passing on most of South Base, the speeds at which vehicles pass and then continue on are clearly way above the speed limit. The final straw that prompted me

to write in was this morning, on Arguello road with all of it’s blind curves, I watched a truck, apparently frustrated that the driver ahead of him was “only” doing approximately 45 mph, passed on a double yellow line and took off up the road and out of sight.
I realize our law enforcement folks are undermanned and overworked, but is there any way to increase their presence on 13th Street and Arguello and Bear Creek roads during the morning commute?
A Thank you for your concern over speeding on our base. Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic accidents. Speeding reduces a driver’s ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a

dangerous situation.
According to the base instruction, the speed limit on Vandenberg is 25 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. However, regardless of posted speed limits, vehicles will continue to operate at speeds greater than is reasonable or prudent for existing road and weather conditions or hazards.
To ensure the safety of motorists using Vandenberg roadways, the security forces squadron conducts selective traffic enforcement with traffic RADAR and uses speed deterrent and education devices, such as the Traffic Enforcement Deterrent (TED) and the RADAR speed carts. Drivers can expect to see these measures more frequently on 13th Street and Arguello Boulevard to decrease the incidence of speeding in this area.
block the sidewalk and protrude into the roadway is also an issue.
The base vehicle instruction prohibits operators from parking their vehicles on, in front of, or blocking public driveways, sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, or entrance/exit ways.
If vehicle operators cannot successfully park their vehicle in the driveway, they must park on the roadway. Operators in violation may be cited by security forces.

Q I was calling regarding the traffic and safety regulations in the residential areas of base housing.
I have noticed a number of people, parked in their driveways, blocking the sidewalks with their cars. I know this is illegal off base but I wasn’t sure of the base policy. It is something that I would like to address with the security forces and to let people know that the practice sends pedestrians into oncoming traffic. Thank you.

A Thank you for voicing a very valid concern.
Vehicles parked in such a manner as to block sidewalks, pose a safety hazard to pedestrians using the sidewalk. Understandably, some of the older housing units have smaller driveways that cause a portion of the vehicle to overhang onto the sidewalk. Similarly, numerous vehicles parked in a single driveway causing one or more of the vehicles to

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The *Space and Missile Times* is published by Lompoc Record Publications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 30th Space Wing.
This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.
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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs Office. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are Air Force photos.
The Public Affairs Office

reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space. **Deadline for publication deadline is 4:30 p.m. every Friday.**
Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303; or by e-mail to Space&MissileTimes@vandenberg.af.mil
Questions regarding the paper can be directed to the *Space & Missile Times* staff at (805) 606-2040.



Vandenberg’s Scoutmaster of the Year Master Sgt. Richard Toczek, 381st Training Group, leads Boy Scout Troop 394 Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in building 16109.

Scout ‘masters’ leadership

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

A master sergeant from the 381st Training Group was recently named scoutmaster of the year for the Del Rio scouting district. Master Sgt. Richard Toczek, Instructional Technology Flight superintendent, leads 21 scouts who comprise Vandenberg’s Troop 394. Toczek began scouting as a Cub Scout at age eight in Buffalo, NY, where his mom was also his den mother. As a teenager he participated in Boy Scouts for a short time achieving the rank of Tenderfoot. Later, while stationed in Germany, Toczek’s son became a scout. “The troop there needed help so I decided to lend a hand,” the scoutmaster said. Toczek didn’t waste any time after arriving here in 2000. He jumped on board with Troop 394 the third day after he set foot on base. In Nov. 2000 Toczek took over the troop as scoutmaster.

“Rich (Toczek) has been an outstanding scoutmaster,” said Mike Moran, Vandenberg troop committee chairman. “He jumped into the scoutmaster position and has built a very strong scouting program for the base.” Moran also highlighted that Toczek’s leadership and commitment to his scouts has led to many of them achieving higher ranks. “Every time a scout gets advanced in rank is a thrill for me,” Toczek said. “The scouts are now going on monthly camping trips and he has also set-up many different programs so they can earn different merit badges,” added Moran. Being named Scoutmaster of the year has been Toczek biggest achievement since being involved in scouting. But, as a leader, he knows he couldn’t have done it by himself. “The scouts and scoutmaster of Troop 394 share this accomplishment. Without the scouts I would’ve never achieved this award,” he said.

AEF: Planners pinpoint unit level affect of AEF taskings

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have analyzed past AEF rotations, made trips to forward-deployed areas and have determined that future AEF rotations point to persistent problems, he said. “Primarily, we continue to fragment taskings across several bases resulting in single person or small group deployments similar to the individual augmentation of PALACE TENURE,” Dremstedt said. “We have not met expectations on teaming, or deploying airmen who have trained together in functional groups, from one installation to one forward operating location. “When we started AEF, ‘deployable combat power’ was the only game in town,” he said. Given that deployment was such

a huge aspect of the AEF concept, most information centered around that subject. Over time, Dremstedt said, officials noticed that not all forces that contribute to AEF are deployed. Roughly 90 percent of AFSPC’s forces fall into this category. By further defining non-deployed AEF support as AEF taskings, planners were able to accurately pinpoint the affect at unit level, he said. More than 80 percent of the 30th Space Wing’s positions are non-deployed. With a clearer picture of AFSPC support to the AEF, officials have noticed a statistical increase in AEF support despite a reduced number of deployment taskings. Team V has more than 80 people

currently deployed in support of AEF taskings, said Master Sgt. Joe Otero, 30th Space Wing superintendent of logistics plans. According to Dremstedt, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper’s stated goal is that nobody is on temporary duty for more than 90 to 120 days per year. “This doesn’t create grounds for an IG complaint if Airman Doe is sent TDY for 122 days, but commanders need to be careful to task a person for only one AEF,” the colonel said. “You may want to include in your in-processing checklists the question, ‘When were you last deployed on an AEF?’ to identify those PCSing in from an AEF unit which just finished a deployment to a unit just getting ready to deploy on an AEF.”

Baby New Year!



Proud new parents Senior Airman Aaron Zavala and his wife Julie of the 30th Security Forces Squadron, welcome their daughter, Faith Ashlee, to their family. Faith was born January 2 at Marion Medical Center in Santa Maria and is the first member of Team Vandenberg born in 2002.

Promotions mean new responsibilities

69 members of Team Vandenberg are entrusted with new rank this month

■ Team Vandenberg recognized its newest promotees January 2 at the Pacific Coast Club.

<u>Airman First Class</u>		
Faulkner, Rachel	533rd Training Squadron	
Gillison, Rikke	30th Mission Support Squadron	
Mcenheimer, Shawn	30th Civil Engineer Squadron	
Nesburg, Gregory	532nd Training Squadron	
Robinson, Carl	30th Range Squadron	
Rodriguez, Castaneda	30th CES	
Saiz, Anna	30th Security Forces Squadron	
<u>Senior Airman Below-the-Zone</u>		
Painter, Manuel	30th Civil Engineer Squadron	
Kelly, Ryan	30th SFS	
Aguilar Jr., Miguel	30th SFS	
Mendiola, Jason	30th SFS	
Lunsford, David	30th SFS	
Wells, Ryan	392nd Training Squadron	
Callahan, James	576th Flight Test Squadron	
Duaine, Steven	30th Communications Squadron	
Bele, Timothy	30th Transportation Squadron	
<u>Senior Airman</u>		
Bloomingdale, Arthur	30th SFS	
Bukrinskiy, Yevgeniy	30th Aeromedical-dental Squadron	
Germany, Ivan	30th SFS	
Gomez, Oscar	30th Contracting Squadron	
Gregory, Ryan	30th SFS	
Leborgne, Peter	30th CES	
Lopez, Lisa	30th Space Wing	
Lucas, Morgan	30th CES	
McFadden, Shantia	30th Communications Squadron	
McLendon, James	30th Transportation Squadron	
Paul, Dustin	30th SFS	
Reish, Johnathan	30th SFS	
Roberts, Elizabeth	30th SFS	
Senter, David	30th CES	
<u>Staff Sergeant</u>		
Aguilar, Thomas	30th CES	
Blanchard, Crystal	30th Medical Operations Squadron	
Dacus, Aimee	576th FLTS	
Eckert, Elizabeth	533rd TRS	
Kirkland, Hiram	576th FLTS	
Lamotte, Tammy	30th SFS	
Martinez, Ernest	30th Medical Support Squadron	
Robinson, Jason	532nd TRS	
Young, Phillip	30th CES	
<u>Technical Sergeant</u>		
Dansby, Jeffrey	30th TRNS	
Lemon, Derek	30th SW	
Puricelli, Louis	30th CES	
Scantlebury-Hall Marcia	30th MDSS	
Steele, Julie	30th SFS	
<u>Master Sergeant</u>		
Davis, Phillip	30th ADOS	
Derksen, Gary	30th SW	
Elzy, Michael	532nd TRS	
Johnson, Larry	614th Space Operations Squadron	
Logan, Danny	576th FLTS	
Rosson, Cary	30th SW	
Simpson, Howard	30th CES	
Webber, Robert	30th CES	
<u>Chief Master Sergeant</u>		
Gunther, John	14th Air Force	
<u>First Lieutenant</u>		
Haley, Tammy	381st Training Support Squadron	
Jackson, Kenneth	2nd Space Launch Squadron	
Lipiec, Karsten	30th CES	
Norkett, Michael	30th CES	
<u>Captain</u>		
Liestage, Kevin	2nd SLS	
Lingle, Eric	534th Training Squadron	
Lisko, Scott	30th Weather Squadron	
Staub, Eric	2nd SLS	
<u>GS-07</u>		
Craig, Marilyn	30th CES	
<u>GS-09</u>		
Dandridge, Estrella	30th Comptroller Squadron	
Harding, Kimberlee	30th CES	
Saylor, Daniel	30th Communications Squadron	
<u>WG-10</u>		
Durant, Philip	30th CES	
<u>GS-11</u>		
Lawrence, Nancy	30th Mission Support Squadron	
Leveck, Samuel	30th CES	
<u>GS-14</u>		
Cote, Richard	30th CES	




**Heard a rumor?
Get the facts.**
During crises or emergencies, call the Vandenberg rumor control line at 606-1857.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Kris Barcomb, a launch controller instructor at the 2nd Space Launch Squadron, competed against applicants from across the Air Force in the National Reconnaissance Office Advanced Academic Degree Program.

VAFB spacelifter competes, wins NRO scholarship

By 2nd LT. DAN COIL

2nd Space Launch Squadron

A first lieutenant from the 2nd Space Launch Squadron received an early Christmas present when he learned he had been selected for the National Reconnaissance Office Advanced Academic Degree Program.

Kris Barcomb, an Air Force launch controller instructor at the 2nd SLS, competed against 34 other applicants from across the Air Force to participate in the program.

The NRO Advanced Academic Degree Program is a competitive program that provides an opportunity to earn a master's degree in one of six different fields of study that are critical to NRO operations.

"The initial requirements alone, in terms of Graduate Record Exam scores and undergraduate GPA, made it very difficult to even qualify to compete for this program," said Lt. Col. Clint Crosier, 2nd SLS commander. "Then to be selected in the top 15 percent of all candidates Air Force-wide is truly a tremendous accomplishment. The entire SLS team is very proud of him."

A special board of senior NRO officials in Washington rated

each candidate based on their undergraduate academic record, graduate test scores and military records. The final step was a personal interview with the selection board.

"I had to do a video teleconference interview in front of a selection board," Barcomb said. "After the interview, I was called back about three days later and told that I was selected."

Barcomb was one of only six selected for the program.

He leaves Vandenberg in August to pursue his master's degree in Imaging Science at Rochester Institute of Technology. Upon completion of his master's degree he will be reassigned to the NRO, developing the nation's future imaging satellites.

"I know it has been gratifying for Kris to launch NRO satellites as part of the 2nd SLS team, but now to have the opportunity to design them will be even more of a thrill," Crosier added.

"This opportunity should allow me to be on the cutting edge of our nation's satellite technologies," Barcomb said. "It will give me the chance to utilize my education as the foundation for my job. I'm very excited at the potential to apply my education to my work."

YOUTH: Erin takes center stage during Good Morning America

From Page 1

stopped to listen to Erin.

People really seem to be uplifted during her on-the-spot performances, he said.

"It's brought some people to tears," Chris added.

He said one listener told the Bradleys that Erin's patriotism was a great story for a local newscast.

KCOY-TV, a local CBS affiliate, jumped on the story.

CNN ran the feed on Thanksgiving Day. Then the phone calls came rolling in.

Less than a week later, Erin and her parents were in New York as guests on "Good Morning America." That morning, young Erin performed for millions of mom-

ing viewers. After her performance, Erin and Dianne Sawyer visited with each other while Erin sat in a battery-powered Jeep. GMA producers later sent the Jeep to Erin as a Christmas gift, said Chris.

The fervor didn't die down after the GMA broadcast. Newspapers from Los Angeles to Boston have printed stories on Erin. CBS affiliates in Seattle and Chicago ran the KCOY story and Good Morning America televised an encore presentation on Christmas Day.

It wasn't long before it became necessary for Erin's parents to get her an agent.

Now, Jay Leno's "The Tonight Show" producers are also trying to get Erin in for a performance.

Captain takes money, runs to Ukraine

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

When Capt. John DiPasquale joined the Pacific Coast Club a couple of months ago, club benefits weren't high on his priority list. Adopting two Ukrainian children was.

Little did he know - club membership pays - and it pays big.

DiPasquale, a satellite operations instructor in the 534th Training Squadron here, was one of the big winners in the Air Force-wide Ultimate Membership Drive. After winning a car, he opted for an \$8,000 cash award.

That's \$8,000 closer to the \$10,000 he and his wife Donella are to adopting their new children. DiPasquale said the trip to Ukraine will cost about \$10,000 including airfare, hotel, a translator, a lawyer and a driver.

A Los Angeles-based adoption agency assisted them with the process.

"We had to get approval from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to bring the children back from overseas," he said. "We also had to have several visits from social workers for interviews before we were given permission to adopt." Then all of the paperwork had to be

translated and sent to the Ukraine consulate for approval, he said. With the paperwork approved, all the family is waiting for is the date to travel.

"We will find out about a week before we have to be there," the soon-to-be father of three said. While they haven't received a specific date yet, they anticipate traveling later this month.

The DiPasquales decided on an overseas adoption in an effort to reduce the likelihood of the birth parents taking the children back.

"We did not want to go through the trauma, or put our daughter Courtney through the trauma, of having our adopted children taken from us because the birth parents changed their mind," he said. "It is very rare, but we did not even want the possibility of that happening."

He said that many adoptions are open, allowing birth parents to have contact with the child. They'd like to avoid that confusion for our adopted children.

Family and friends have rallied to help the DiPasquale's dream come true.

"Our co-workers and family members have been very supportive," he said. His mother will take care of their 6-year-old daughter while the captain and his wife are in the Ukraine.

"Our daughter is very excited," the captain said. "She can't wait to have a brother and a sister."

He said the Catholic chapel has also been very supportive.

"People have given us donations of money and clothing to take to the orphanage when we visit in Ukraine," DiPasquale said.

Upon their return, Donella will take maternity leave from her job as a teacher at Vandenberg Middle School and DiPasquale said he'd take some time off to get the new family members settled in.

One of the barriers the new family will have to overcome is language.

"We have purchased picture books with Russian words in them, so our children will understand some of what we are saying, but it will be difficult for a few months," he said.

He said it should take about one year for their English skills to be comparable to their age peers.

"The nice thing is that children learn language very quickly," DiPasquale said.

Language barriers, red tape and high costs aside the DiPasquale's know there's only one thing their new children need.

"The love and support of a family," he said. "That is a basic need that these children have not had in their lives yet."

Club membership pays \$8,000

By 2nd LT. MICHELLE MAYO

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ A satellite operations instructor from the 534th Training Squadron here was a big winner in the Air Force-wide club membership drive.

Capt. John DePasquale won a new car. There were three cars given away. Ultimate Membership Drive winners had the choice of a Ford Ranger pickup, a Dodge Neon sedan, a Chevrolet Cavalier coupe or \$8,000 in cash.

DiPasquale took the money. "I didn't even know they were giving

away money when I signed up," he said. "It was an early Christmas present."

The captain said he'd always intended to become a club member, but he'd never got around to it.

"When I saw a flier saying the club had lowered its dues, I went in," DiPasquale said.

The new dues structure for the Pacific Coast Club was announced during the membership drive which ran from Aug. 15 to Nov. 19. Dues vary from \$5 to \$20 per month depending on the member's rank. According to Lt. Col. David Cannon,

30th Services Squadron commander, the PCC signed up 330 new members during the drive.

"We signed up the most people in space command," he said. "Team Vandenberg leads AFSPC in just about everything and our Ultimate Membership Drive for the Pacific Coast Club was no different."

More than 19,000 people joined Air Force clubs during the drive.

For more information about club membership, call 734-4375.

Obesity: A growing epidemic

By SUSAN MCPHERSON

Health and Wellness Center

What was true 20, 30, 40 years ago is still true today. There is no miracle pill that will make you lose weight and keep it off. It all boils down to watching what you eat and exercising.

Today, in the United States, 1 in 4 adults is obese (having a body mass index of more than 30) and 1 in 3 adults are overweight (having a BMI between 25 and 29). One in 10 children are now obese and will probably be overweight as an adult. Based on prevalence studies, by the year 2230, 100 percent of Americans will be overweight, as defined by having a BMI of greater than 27.8.

Why, in a society that is so crazed for the next fitness gimmick or diet, are we gaining weight and not losing it? Experts say it is a result of having an abundance of food available to us and due to our own inactivity. Only 10 percent of the American population engages in regular vigorous physical activity. Also, we need to take a good look at our eating habits.

Let's face it, Americans have lost their sense of what is a normal portion size.

With "value sizing," buffet restaurants, and the Texas steakhouses gaining popularity in our everyday life, our perception of a "regular" portion has grown over the years. For instance, in the 1950s, a typical portion of Coke was a 6-ounce bottle, which provided approximately 75 calories. Gradually the size increased to the 12-ounce can, then the 20-ounce bottle and now the Big Gulp, which is 32 ounce and approximately 400 calories. That's five times the original calorie content.

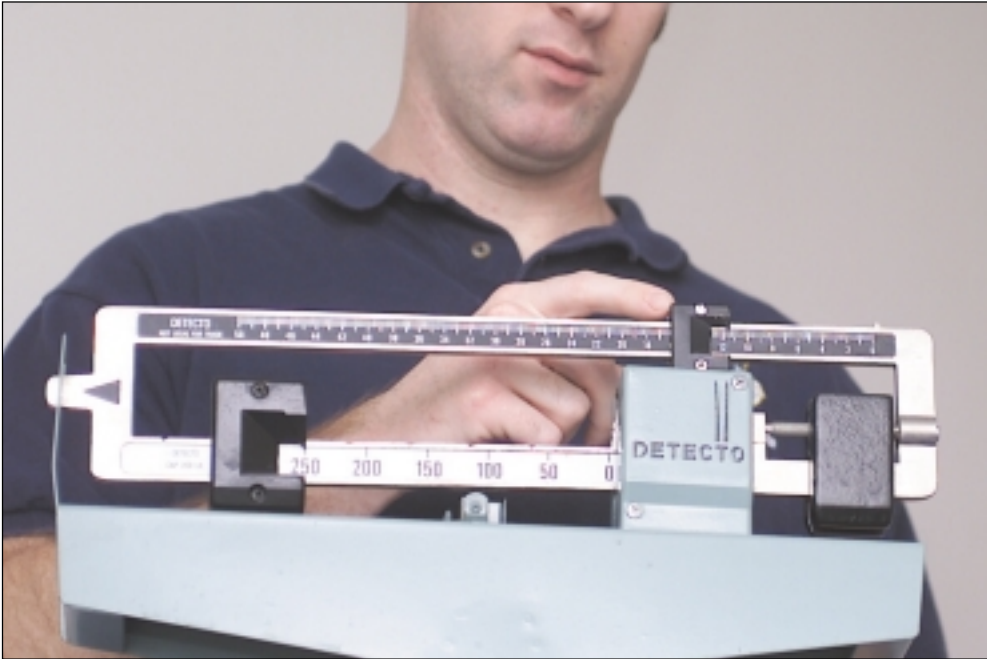


PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Today in the United States 1 in 4 adults are obese (having a body mass index of more than 30). Based on studies by the year 2230, 100 percent of Americans will be overweight, as defined by having a BMI of greater than 27.8.

People do not realize that when they "supersize" at their favorite fast food restaurant that they just added another 1,000 to 1,300 calories. Our plates and glasses have gotten so large that a once typical 8-ounce serving of juice or a half-cup of rice seems small.

So what do we do about this growing epidemic?

First things first, focus on reducing overall calories. The diet should be individually planned to help cut back between 300 and 1,000 calories a day. About 3,500 calories translates into approximately one pound of weight loss, so cutting back on 500 calories over seven days would mean a one pound weight loss in a week. Losing too much weight in a short period of time means either water or muscle loss. The more muscle you have the more fat you will burn so a slow steady weight loss plan is always recommended.

Second, you need to move. Yes, that means increasing physical activity.

Increasing the loss of calories through physical activity not only helps with weight loss, but it also has benefits of its own, including improved in physical fitness and appearance. Physical activity should be initiated slowly and become part of any weight loss or maintenance plan. The recommendation is to start out with 30 to 45 minutes of activity, three to five days a week, including activities such as walking or swimming at an acceptable pace. With this regimen, an additional expenditure of 100 to 200 calories per day is possible. The goal is to reduce sedentary activity (sitting, lying down, etc.).

For many people this translates into a simple habit of getting up and walking as often as possible throughout their normal day.

For more information about weight loss and exercise you can call or visit the HAWC. The phone number is 606-2221.

Fitness classes at the service center

Total body conditioning -- Wednesday 9 to 10 a.m. and 5:30 to 6:25 p.m.

Indoor cycling-- Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6 to 6:45 a.m. Other times available, call 606-3832 for schedule.

HAWC Classes

Sensible Way-- A four-week weight-loss class held by the HAWC staff. The class covers exercising, meal planning and stress relief. Begins Jan. 24 from 8 to 10 a.m. Another class starts Feb. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Winter wonderland



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. GREG DAVIS

Senior Airman Scott McLane checks the identification card of a person entering the Shaw AFB, S.C., Jan. 3. McLane, a member of the 20th Security Forces Squadron, is working the front gate during a rare winter storm that blanketed several southern states. The storm brought between 5 and 6 inches of snow to the area in a two day period. The winter storm broke a 20-year record for snowfall and shut-down a majority of the states’ transportation system including the capital’s airport and major highways.

Satellite warning system goes on line

By 2ND LT. MICHAEL ANDREWS

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

■ BUCKLEY AFB, Colo. — A ceremony was held Dec. 21 at the 2nd Space Warning Squadron here to declare the initial operational capability of the new ground segment of the Space-Based Infrared System.

Brig. Gen C. Robert Kehler, 21st Space Wing commander, presided over the ceremony that consolidated the existing Defense Support Program ground stations into a single mission control station at the 2nd SWS. The 2nd SWS falls under the 21st SW at Peterson AFB, Colo. The wing is the Air Force’s only organization providing missile warning and space control to unified commanders and combat forces worldwide.

“Since the terrorist attacks, the rest of the Air Force has started to fully understand what the space team brings to the fight,” said Kehler. “SBIRS is a system that will provide the nation with critical missile defense and warning capability well into the 21st century.”

The consolidated ground segment will also now provide the missile-warning customer a single, unambiguous and improved messaging for detected events. SBIRS will eventually replace the current Defense Support Program satellite missile warning system.

DSP has provided the nation with critical missile warning data from space for over 30 years and is expected to continue providing data through the end of the decade.

The total cost on the ground station was \$250 million. This includes the development of software, construction of the facility and equipment housed in the building. *(Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)*

Firefighters make up ceremonial guard

By 2nd LT. MEGAN FRAIL

28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

■ ELLSWORTH AFB, S.D. — Four solemn figures stand motionless in the fog as a bagpipe wails its sorrowful song in the distance, paying tribute to those who have

fallen in the line of duty.

This scene is played out by a base honor guard team composed entirely of firefighters: the Ellsworth Firefighter Ceremonial Guard.

“With all the tradition in the fire service, we (say) goodbye, farewell and Godspeed to (fallen brothers),” said Dean Stetson, the lead firefighter with the 28th Civil Engineer Squadron’s Fire Protection Flight. “It (is) about duty, honor and tradition.”

Carrying the U.S. flag, the Air Force flag, a firefighter’s axe and a pike pole, the guard members move to the beat of the bagpipes as they perform at funerals and other events to honor fallen firefighters.

In 1999, Ward Yanders, Ellsworth’s assistant fire chief, and Steve Kinkade, an Ellsworth firefighter at the time, started the ceremonial guard to post and retire colors for a civilian firefighter who was retiring after 33 years of service.

“As I came up through the ranks, military firefighters would get a big sendoff, whereas a civilian firefighter wouldn’t,” Yanders



Around the Air Force

said. “It just didn’t seem fair.”

Through research and the permission of the 28th Support Group commander, the 28th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, the Ellsworth Honor Guard, and the 28th Bomb Wing Protocol and Legal offices, base firefighters were able to find out exactly what they could and could not do.

“Steve (Kinkade) established a ceremony with the blessing of the fire chief,” Yanders said. “The ceremony wasn’t geared toward strictly military or civilians, but firefighters.”

The group performed for the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Service conference in New Orleans in August. The guard performed several of their services and demonstrated others for interested fire department members.

“As far as we know, we’re one of a kind,” Yanders said. “To this date we’re the only active-duty Air Force firefighter ceremonial guard in (Air Combat Command), and I’ve been told we might be the only one in the active-duty Air Force as well.” *(Air Force News Service)*

C-141 pilot pulls girl from icy water

■ WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — An Air Force Reserve Command C-141 pilot with the 445th Airlift Wing here may have saved a 9-year-old girl from certain death Dec. 27 in Bright, Ind., a small town near Cincinnati.

Maj. Timothy Baldwin stopped his car after seeing Ashlee Ball in an icy pond. Other motorists had stopped, but Baldwin was the first to jump in after the girl.

Ball had fallen through the thin ice attempting to rescue her dog, which had already fallen into the family’s backyard pond.

“I thought I’d go out and rescue the dog, but that was not too easy,” she said. “Then I fell in. I was shocked, cold and could barely breathe.”

Baldwin pulled the girl and her

pet out of the water and handed the girl over to John Groovel, a conservation officer on the scene. Groovel said the child would have probably died or sustained serious injury if Baldwin had not responded quickly.

The girl was conscious at the time of her rescue after spending 10 minutes in the icy water. As a precaution, she was flown to Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati, where she was treated and released.

After Baldwin determined that the girl was being cared for, he continued on his way to work as a Delta Airlines pilot. *(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)*

Electronic warfare university stands up at Edwards

By AIRMAN WES AULDRIDGE

Air Force Flight Test Center

■ EDWARDS AFB, Calif. — Edwards engineers are now getting advanced education on testing and evaluating electronic warfare systems through a new program called Electronic Warfare Test and Evaluation University.

Created by the 412th Test Wing’s Electronic Warfare Directorate, experts developed the program to train Edwards’ electronic warfare test engineers on testing and evaluating highly sophisticated systems they encounter here.

Marty Welch, electronic warfare test engineering division technical expert, said the program provides a standardized comprehensive training program for all electronic warfare directorate engineers.

“Electronic warfare is not a discipline taught in engineering schools, and as a new engineer fresh from college you probably won’t have a background in electronic warfare systems,” said Welch.

“The main goal of the training here is to teach the engineers how to conduct test and evaluation on electronic warfare systems by pro-

viding classes on specific threat systems, electronic warfare systems, and test and evaluation methodologies and techniques,” he said.

Previous electronic warfare university students support the school’s efforts.

“This is very useful for any electronic warfare engineer,” said Sam Smith, an electronic warfare engineer and student of the school. “The course was taught by a very experienced professional in the field and covered the material very thoroughly.”

To consolidate training and avoid redundancy, electronic warfare directorate experts here established cooperative relationships with other similar electronic warfare test and evaluation organizations. They said the goal is not to be teaching the same thing at the same time in different locations. The school has established a dedicated training facility at the directorate’s west base location.

“The classroom is like a normal university with an instructor at the front of the class going over slide presentations with general ideas being taught,” said Smith. “The instructor will then go into more detail on each slide.”

Classes typically range from three to five days and consist of both those developed through a contract with Science Applications International Corporation, more commonly known as SAIC, and commercially available classes. *(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)*

Contact center available for pay problems

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Airmen who are having pay problems they are unable to solve with local military personnel flights or finance offices can contact the Air Force Personnel Center Contact Center here.

Customers can e-mail issues to the center at afpc.dpsfm@afpc.randolph.af.mil or call (800) 558-1404 or DSN 665-2949.

Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. After hours, a phone message can be left for an agent to follow-up the next day. *(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)*

Community Calendar

EVENTS

12 SAT The 381st Student Spouses' Club will hold a **playgroup** tomorrow from 10 a.m. to noon. at 640 Korina St. in base housing. Call Mari Jo Lee at 734-4412 to sign up.

The Vandenberg Spouses' Club is looking for crafters interested in donating a sample of their work to be auctioned at their annual scholarship fundraising event. For more information, call Lynn Galik at 734-4088 or Susan Ashley at 734-20360.

Historical downtown walking tours of Santa Barbara are available every Saturday, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to noon. The tour covers a four-square block radius through historic Spanish downtown. Call (805) 965-6407 for more information.

Amtrak and Veterans *Advantage* honor America's veterans by announcing a half-off discount on Amtrak fares for veterans. Through February 28, veterans and active-duty of any rank or branch of military service, including the National Guard, who are members of Veterans *Advantage* may receive a 50 percent discount on Amtrak rail fares nationwide. Veterans *Advantage* members may take advantage of this special fare promotion when making reservations through a travel agent or by calling 1-877-872-7245.

14 MON The 30th Medical Group is holding **Operation Baby Launch Monday** at 5 p.m. in the clinic auditorium at 338 South Dakota St. Expectant parents and those planning a family are welcome. Information about local hospitals, TRICARE and the Vandenberg Family Practice Clinic will be available. Call Nancy Sias at 606-8217 or Maj. Jean Eagleton at 606-9501.

The 381st Student Spouses' Club is sponsoring a **launch control center tour** Monday at 5:30 p.m. Participants will be taken 60 feet underground. Transportation is provided. For more information, call Mari Jo Lee at 734-4412.

17 THU The Vandenberg Spouses' Club January event, **Thunder Alley Bowling** at the Bowling Center, is scheduled for Thursday. Check-in is at 6 p.m. Bowling is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. The cost is \$6 per person and includes shoes. Food and beverages may be purchased as well. Make reservations by Tuesday with Dawn Orban at 734-2218. Guests and new members are welcome as well.

1 FRI There will be a **Black History Month Gospel Workshop and Concert** in which the Inner Light Community Gospel teaches the public to sing gospel. The event takes place at Goleta Presbyterian Church Feb. 1 and 2 from 7 to 9 p.m., and Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3p.m. Attendees perform a concert at 7 p.m., Feb. 4 in the Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara. Call (805) 961-2712 for information.

3 SUN Vandenberg Air Force Base **Singles Christian Fellowship** provides a time and place where Christian singles can enjoy life-giving fellowship. The group encourages singles in their

New Year's Rockin' Eve



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. LEE OSBERY

Members of Vandenberg's Pacific Coast Club shake the dance floor at the club's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Party-goers rang in the new year celebrating together until 4 a.m.

walk with the Lord. There is open, guided discussion tackling topics that Christian singles face in today's world. Discover the key to Christian living: finding fulfillment in Him and Him alone. Join the group for fun, food, and fellowship. A Breakthrough Dinner will be held at the Chapel 1 Annex, Feb. 3rd at 5 p.m. Make reservations by Jan 28 at 606-5773.

4 MON This year's **National Prayer Luncheon** is scheduled for Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, deputy chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service. Baldwin will speak on "Bubbles, Blackberries and Bedtime Prayers (Tools for Tackling Terrorism)." The U.S. Air Force Academy Praise Team will also perform. Unit First Sergeants will sell tickets for \$6 through Jan. 29. They will also be available at Chapel One through Jan. 30. Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Husfelt is the point of contact for this event and can be reached at 606-5773.

5 TUE The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra will perform with Conductor Heiichiroy Ohyama Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. in the Lobero Theater. The orchestra will perform works by Britten, Copland and Mozart. Call the box office for tickets at (805) 963-0761.

7 THU Natural Wonders - Adventures for Children will conduct a parent-child workshop on Valentine's nature crafts Feb. 7 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Arroyo Room of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Children must be ages 5 through 10 years old. Cost of the workshop is \$12 per pair and \$5 for additional children. There will be a Girls' Sports Fair Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria at 5315 Foothill Rd.

9 SAT Local athletes will provide skills clinics and activities to girls in grades K through 6 basketball, soccer and volleyball. For more information, call (805) 569-7144.

15 FRI The Santa Barbara Symphony presents Dianne Reeves in a tribute to jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughn. The concert is scheduled for Feb. 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Call (805) 963-4408 for more information.

17 SUN A Night at the Races is a fundraising event for "Beyond Tolerance." The event is scheduled for Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. and will be held at the Montecito Country Club. Money is being raised to educate the children of Santa Barbara County on tolerance for all mankind. Participants can bet on horses in filmed races called by reknowned horse-racing announcers. The first race starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Call Adele Rosen at (805) 898-2700 for details on how to participate.

CLASSES

15 TUE The Career Focus Program provides a **Local Job Search** workshop Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. in the Family Support Center. Information available covers on-base and local job employment opportunities and sources for job seekers. Find out who's hiring, who's not, and how to add a resume to the Air Force and local web sites. Call Tinisha Agramonte at 605-8557 for more information.

16 WED A **Manage Your Move** workshop is planned for families facing a permanent change of station. The

workshop is scheduled for Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. in the Family Support Center. There will be briefings from housing, TMO, finance, legal, personal financial management, and Tricare. Contact the Relocation Assistance Program manager at 606-0801 for details and registration.

Meetings

17 THU **Military retirees** meet at 1 p.m. in the Retiree Activities Center on the third Thursday of every month. This month's topic is "Estate Conservation." For more information, call Col. Myrna-Lynne Whitney at 605-2407 for more information.

The **Titan Toastmasters** meet from 4 to 5 p.m. every Thursday in the Services Center. For information, call Loretta Williams at 605-3001 or Bruce Henderson at 606-1541, Ext. 3627.

22 TUE Vandenberg's Single Parent's Support Group meets for lunch every second and fourth Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. The group is for military and civilian base single parents.

National Society of Military Widows, Central Coast Chapter 44 meets the second Wednesday of every month. the next meeting is set for Feb. 13. Widowers are also welcome. For more information, call 606-5474.

The new **Global Hearts Support Group**, coordinated by the Family Support Center, Chapel and Services Squadron, offers help and support for military families with deployment-related needs by providing information and assistance. This group is intended for spouses of active-duty members who are TDY, remote or deployed for more than 30 days. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Todd Lefebvre at 606-0039.

CHAPEL NOTES

Catholic Worship Services

- Saturday at 5 p.m. in Chapel 2.
- Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Chapel 1.
- Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
- Catholic religious education is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the religious education building.
- Confirmation is Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the religious education administration building.
- Youth confirmation is Sundays at 6 p.m. in the religious education administration building.

Protestant Worship Services

- Contemporary Service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
 - Traditional service is Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in Chapel 1.
 - Gospel service is Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
 - Protestant religious education opportunities are as follows:
 - Summer Sunday school is 10 a.m. in the religious education building.
 - The Youth Believers in God seminars are scheduled for Sundays at 6 p.m. in the religious education building.
- For other faith groups or concerns, call the chapel at 606-7773.**

AT THE MOVIES

Today
SPY GAME
Starring Robert Redford, Brad Pitt
A veteran CIA agent, Nathan Muir, is on the verge of retirement when he learns that his former partner, Tom Bishop is being held on espionage charges in Beijing after attempting to free a Chinese prisoner. Though Muir's loyalty and determination have faded over the years, he insists on going to Bishop's aid. Rated R.

Saturday
MONSTERS INC.
Starring Billy Crystal, John Goodman
Since children are considered a threat to monsters, it is absolutely forbidden for anything from the human world to cross over into the monster world-even a stray sock alerts a task force. But one night after work, Sulley accidentally lets in a little girl. Rated G.

Sunday
LIFE AS A HOUSE
Starring Kevin Line, Kristen Scott Thomas
George has had a life-long ambition to build his own home, a dream that he has put off again and again. But he is determined to build this house-even if it means refurbishing his entire life. He begins the project alone, but soon attracts a disparate group of people. What begins as a way for him to redeem his own bruised dreams turns into something much bigger than he ever imagined. Rated R.
All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

DeCA business successes enhance service members' quality of life

By RON KELLY
Defense Commissary Agency

■ FORT LEE, Va. - When it comes to improving the quality of life for America's military, the Defense Commissary Agency continues to play an important role.

Always considered one of the military's top non-pay benefits, the commissary benefit has become even more valuable to service members and their families as a result of DeCA's continued efforts and success in reducing costs and increasing savings and sales.

By changing its focus from a budget-based to a cost culture and employing fact-based business methods — moves that began more than a year ago — the agency has been able to control operational costs and at the same time increase customer savings to 30.4 percent over commercial supermarkets. In quality-of-life terms, this equates to annual savings worth more than \$2,400 for a family of four who shops regularly at a commissary. But that's not all.

Reducing and controlling costs helps DeCA deliver the same level of quality and service to its patrons no matter where they serve around the world.

"By controlling costs and operating more efficiently - especially at large stores like Fort Belvoir — we gain the financial leverage we need to support smaller operations at higher unit costs in remote and overseas areas — where quality of life takes on added importance," said DeCA's director, Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr. "The result

is consistency and savings in all of our stores."

Total commissary sales — an important factor in DeCA's ability to continue to deliver greater patron savings - have been solid as well, with more growth expected as stores strive to attract a greater share of their customer base while working toward achieving established sales targets.

At the same time, DeCA has been giving its existing customers reasons to shop at their commissary more often by building new and bigger stores, renovating existing ones, improving convenience and in-stock rates, and offering great produce, meat, bakery and deli departments.

These efforts, combined with aggressive merchandising, are expected to increase sales,

adding even more value and consistency to this most-valued benefit.

Courter explained by saying, "When more people use their commissary more often, sales increase, and so do total customer savings — savings that supplement military pay and quality of life. Increased sales also lead to further savings as our Marketing Business Unit is able to obtain better prices from vendors. And improved savings is the key — it's the reason for the benefit!"

"Just as reduced unit costs improve our ability to deliver this premier quality-of-life benefit efficiently and effectively, ultimately, increased savings and sales strengthen the commissary benefit and improve the quality of life for all of our customers," the general said.

"When more people use their commissary more often, sales increase, and so do total customer savings — savings that supplement military pay and quality of life."

Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr.
Defense Commissary Agency director

Contest scores touchdown for fans

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Vandenberg's commissary is kicking off its Football Fan of the Year essay contest.

"We are sure that we have some unusual dedicated, one of a kind, original, crazy, football worshipping fans out there in our community that deserve the title of 'Vandenberg's football fan of the year,'" said Randy Epps, store manager. The "winning fan of the year", with a



shopping spree, a coupon for an extra large vegetable tray and fruit tray to be used by Super Bowl Sunday which is Feb. 3

"That should be a big help with the fan of the year's Super Bowl party, he added. Contestant essays should explain why the person should be named

"Vandenberg's Football Fan of the Year!" said Epps. The deadline for entry is Jan. 26. Entries will be judged Jan. 26 and 27. The commissary will display the winner's essay and photo.

Epps encourages football fans to tell a friend about the contest. For more information about the contest, call the commissary at 606-8801.



The Breakers Dining Facility is open to enlisted active-duty members, government civilians and retirees every day for breakfast, lunch, dinner and a midnight meal.

Weekdays

Breakfast: 5 to 8 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Weekends

Brunch: 6 to 11 a.m.

Dinner: 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Midnight Meal: 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Dinner: 4 to 6 p.m.



America's Air Force
No one Comes Close!



S^{30th} Services

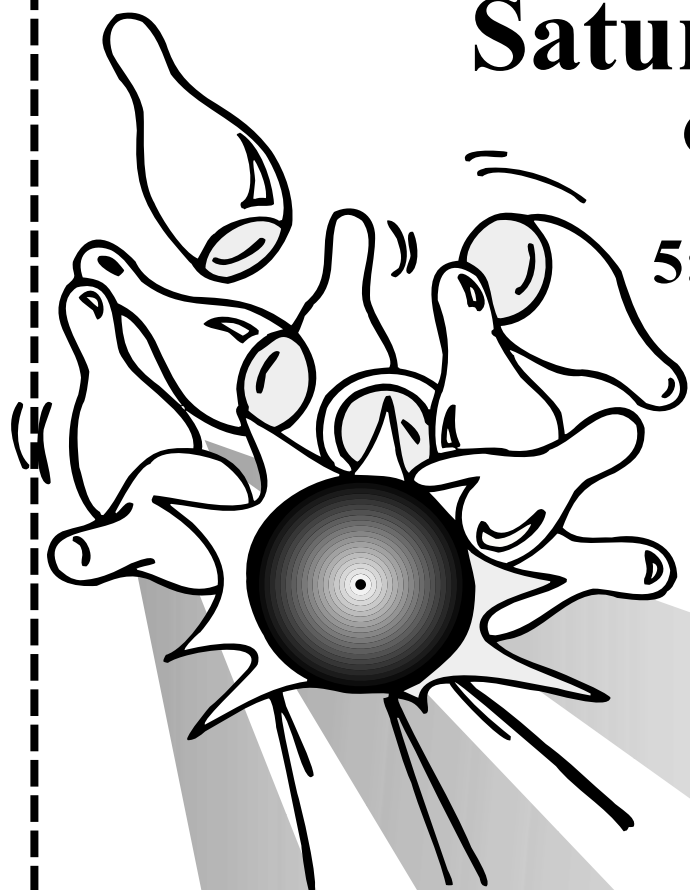


NEWS

BOWLING CENTER

Saturday!

Check in
at
5:30 p.m.,
bowl
at
6 p.m.



9-PIN NO TAP TOURNAMENT

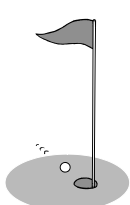
There is a '300' game pot
and two divisions if enough
participation between
men and women.

Call 734-1310 for more information.

GOLF

**SATURDAY
& SUNDAY** -
Winter Open Tournament

WEDNESDAY -
Ladies Priority,
8:32-9:04 a.m.



YOUTH CENTER

TWIRLING CLASSES -
ages 4 and up, combine with Lompoc
classes to march in local parades. Cost:
\$29 (\$24 for youth center members) for a
six-week session. Classes instructed by
Nickie Rains. Come by the Youth Center to
register or call 606-2152 for information.

V.I.T.T.

Vandenberg Leisure

LAKE TAHOE



HOLIDAY WEEKEND 16-19 February

\$145 per person, sharing
\$225 single

\$105 per person, triple

Discount lift tickets available:
Heavenly Valley, Sierra at Tahoe,
Kirkwood and Northstar.
Luxury restroom-equipped
motorcoach transportation.
THREE NIGHTS, Holiday Lodge,
located one block from casino area and
Heavenly Valley ski lift.

For more information call 606-7976.

BOWLING

BREAKFAST
is served at the Bowling Center from 6:30-
10 a.m. every Monday through Friday, ex-
cept holidays.

THUNDER ALLEY with ROCK 300
Thursday through Saturday nights. Thurs-
days, families can bowl from 6-9 p.m. Fri-
day hours are 10 p.m.-1 a.m. and Saturday
9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Cost: Thursday, \$6 for all
bowlers; Friday and Saturday, \$8 for adults
and \$6 for youth (with Youth Center ID) and
includes all equipment. Music on request
Friday and Saturday. Come on out for the
best 'glow and bowl' program around!

FITNESS

MONDAY -
7:05-7:20 a.m.
Location: Basketball Court

TUESDAY -
Cardio Room Orientation, 9-10 a.m.
Woman on Weights, 9-10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY -
Sit & Stretch, 7-7:30 p.m.
Location: Basketball Court
For more information on these pro-
grams, call 606-3834.

LIBRARY

Women's Book Discussion Group meets
January 24 at 12 p.m. 'Tending Roses' by
Lisa Wingate will be discussed. All are wel-
come even if you have not read the book.
Help in selecting the next book to be dis-
cussed. Bring a sack lunch and join us in
the Library conference room. For more in-
formation, contact 606-6414 or 2Lt Kasey
Lowery at 605-8481 or 734-4239.

Pacific Coast Club SATURDAY



HAPPY NEW YEAR! * HAPPY NEW YEAR! * HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Grand Prize Winners of the Leisure Travel Grand Opening Drawing!

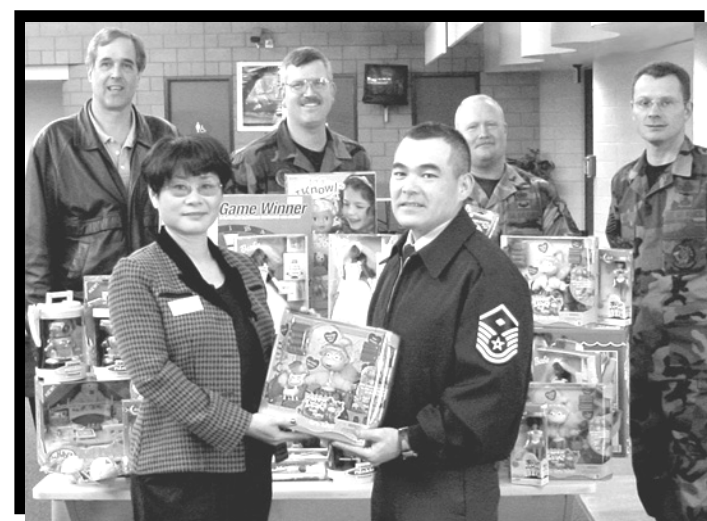
Congratulations to:

- Major (DR) Rodney Knight
30th Med Group
- 1Lt Brad Brewington
381st Training Group

If you are interested in making travel plans,
please contact Edwina Williams at Leisure Travel,
606-1675, or check out AFtravelonline.com

Christmas toys for AF Children

The youth center received a donation of toys from
the Boys & Girls club of America who had
received them from Toys R Us. These toys were
donated to AF children of deployed members. The
youth center contacted the First Sergeants, who
run a program called Project Good Neighbor, and
they were very thankful to accept the toys to give
to children during the holiday season.



"Thank you" from UPS



UPS and the Services Center would like to
thank our customers for their business. And just to
remind everyone, the UPS service is not only
available at Christmas, but is open every Monday
through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for shipping, too!

VAFB Youth Sports SIGN-UPS



Baseball BOYS & GIRLS

Ages 5-13

Registrations:

Tuesday through Feb. 22
Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm
at the Youth Center
Cost: \$50 (\$45 with Y/C discount)
Skills Day: Baseball, Feb. 23.

Softball GIRLS

Ages 8-16

Registrations:

Tuesday through Feb. 23
Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm
at the Youth Center
Cost: \$50 (\$45. with Y/C discount)
Skills Day: Softball, Feb. 23.

*Players ages 14-16: a sign-up list will
be taken to see if there is enough interest
to form this division.

Volunteers are needed for both sports:
league president, vice president, field
commissioners, uniform/equipment
commissioner, secretary, coaches, and
umpires. For more information, call the
Youth Center at 606-2152.

Varsity Basketball Home Game CHALLENGE

**Vandenberg
vs.
LeMoore Hornets**



**GAME 1
Friday
7 p.m.**

**GAME 2
Saturday
1 p.m.**

Games will be played
at the
Main Fitness Center,
Bldg 9005.